

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 HEW-08 OMB-01 TAR-02

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TAGS: AORG, FAO

SUBJ: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH - 17TH FAO CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S LEAD-OFF SPEECH TO CONFERENCE NOTED TURNING POINT REACHED IN AGRICULTURE THOUGH DISAPPEARANCE NORTH AMERICAN GRAIN SURPLUSES AND DISCUSSED SHORT TERM SAHEL EMERGENCY, MEDIUM TERM WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND LONG TERM INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT. BALANCE OF SPEECH DISCUSSED RESEARCH, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND FIELD PROGRAM. UNDER LAST POINT STRESSED POPULATION CONTROL, ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UNCTAD. SUPPORTED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER 1974, SUGGESTED PRACTICAL ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE AND REVIEWED BUDGET PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA IN ADDRESSING 130 MEMBER FAO CONFERENCE INFORMED GROUP HIS VIEW WORLD AGRICULTURE HAD REACHED TURNING POINT AND THAT 20 YEARS OF RELATIVE SECURITY AND STABILITY
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WITH REGARD AVAILABILITY AND COST BASIC FOOD SUPPLIES HAD

ENDED AND SUGGESTED THIS DEMONSTRATES FUNDAMENTAL IMBALANCE STATE OF WORLD AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL.

2. /SHORT TERM:/ DG REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS IN SAHELIAN ZONE, PAID TRIBUTE TO SIX COUNTRIES, DONOR COUNTRIES, UN AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS AND INFORMED CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GERAL UN AND FAO DG LAUNCHING JOINT APPEAL FOR SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF FOOD AND CASH FOR FAO SAHELIAN TRUST FUND.

3. /MEDIUM TERM:/ STATING THAT WORLD STILL AT STAGE WHERE NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE PARAMOUNT, DG FELT HIS WORLD FOOD SECURITY PROPOSAL PRACTICAL SINCE BASED ON NATIONAL STOCKS AND STRESSED IN LIGHT OF UNCERTAINTIES SOME SAFEGUARD AGAINST FOOD SHORTAGE NEED TO BE ADOPTED. HE STATED HIS PROPOSAL NO MORE THAN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM SAFEGUARD.

4. /LONG TERM:/ DG APPEALED FOR BASIC APPROACH TO DEAL WITH CHRONIC DISARRAY WORLD AGRICULTURE CALLING ATTENTION THAT VISIBLE LINK, WHICH IS TRADE, DEMONSTRATES HURTFUL SIGNS OF MALADJUSTMENT. HE STATED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OFTEN ENGAGED IN FIERCE ENCOUNTERS AMONG THEMSELVES WHILE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH INCREASING AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS HAVE SEEN SHARE AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROGRESSIVELY DECLINE. DG STATES PRODUCTION POLICIES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CHIEF CAUSES OF TRADE PROBLEMS, MUST BE TACKLED THE SAME TIME. TRADE ADJUSTMENTS BEING MADE.

5. STATING ADJUSTMENT IS A CONTINUING PROCESS, DG ADDED THERE NEED NOT BE ANY CUTBACK IN PRODUCTION BUT RATHER AN ORDERLY AND RAIONAL INCREASE IN BOTH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE. FAO PROPOSAL SEES GOVERNMENTS AGREEING ON PRINCIPLE OF PURSUING ORGANIZED APPROACH TO ADJUSTMENT AND IF BASIC AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLE, REACHED, VARIOUS IDEAS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO FAO COUNCIL AT LATER DATE WITH INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY PRESENTED TO 1975 FAO CONFERENCE FOR ADOPTION. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AS PROPOSED WOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR FORMULATION OF OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES, REPORTING PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND SOME PERMANENT MACHINERY FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION.

6. /RESEARCH:/ DG TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON REAEARCH, CALLING FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUILD UP STRONG BASE NATIONAL RESEARCH UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GIVE IMPORTANCE TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DG DEVOTED LARGE PART OF SPEECH TO FAO'S FIELD PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIS CALLING FOR GREATER ASSISTANCE AND STATING THAT IT "LAMENTABLE" OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ONLY HALF MODEST TARGET ACCEPTED FOR DD II. DG SAID IT "DISTURBING" THAT INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LDCS LESS THAN TARGET.

7. /POPULATION:/ DG NOTED 70 PERCENT OF RISE IN DEMAND FOR FOOD IN LDCS DUE SOLELY TO INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO BE FED AND STATED FAO ACTIVELY COOPERATING IN PREPARATIONS FOR UN POPULATION CONFERENCE 1974.

8. /NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:/ DG FORWARDED IDEA FOR FAO REPORT ON LINES OF SOFA WHICH WOULD CARRY OUT "PERIODIC AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE OF STATE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOR ENVIRONMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE."

9. /TRADE:/ DG EXPRESSED HOPE FAO'S WORK ON ADJUSTMENT ASSIST GOVERNMENTS IN REACHING MORE BALANCED AND MUTUALLY ACCOMMODATING AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICIES.

10. /WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE:/ DG STATED CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY UN AND FAO "IN COOPERATION WITH UNCTAD AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS."
HE SUGGESTED ROME IN OCTOBER OR "PREFERABLY NOVEMBER 1974".
DG SAID NO POINT IN HOLDING CONFERENCE IF NOT FOR PURPOSE OF BRINGING ABOUT "REAL PRACTICAL ACTION TO IMPROVE WORLD FOOD SITUATION." STATED IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO SINGLE OUT SPECIFIC MEASURES WHICH WOULD MAKE GENUINE POSITIVE IMPACT ON WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND WHICH WOULD OBTAIN UNIVERSAL SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS.

11. /BUDGET:/ DG CLOSED WITH REFERENCE TO FAO FINANCIAL SITUATION NOTING HIS REQUEST FOR \$108.5 MILLION OF 1974-75.VOLPE

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